

INTELLIGENCE

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VENEZUELA GENERALMaracaibo Bar Project

Considerable amounts of equipment, to be employed in the dredging operations of the inner bar, have arrived in Maracaibo from the U.S. and Eastern Venezuela. The same contracting firm has practically completed the dredging of the Orinoco River (Caño Macareo) for the U.S. Steel Company and is moving its heavy equipment and skilled personnel to the Maracaibo project. It is probable that dredging operations on the north end of the channel will commence about April 15 although the official inauguration is set for April 19, Anniversary of the Declaration of Venezuelan Independence.

Bids for the construction of the eastern jetty have been requested by the Institute of Canalizations for March 31.

President's Message to the Constitutional Assembly

On March 28 Provisional President Col. Marcos Perez Jimenez delivered his annual message to the Constitutional Assembly. Only indirect reference was made to the operations of the petroleum industry wherein he spoke of the government's plan for effective conservation measures to assure maximum returns and minimum waste.

According to a newspaper report the Government is preparing a five year plan for railroad construction, setting up a steel industry and a vast electrification program utilizing the falls of the Caroni River, a tributary of the Orinoco. Official notice of such a plan, it is said, will be announced shortly. Such a program will entail enormous expenditures which may expedite the granting of new concessions in order to obtain funds for such a project.

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- 2 -

Constituent Assembly

All the Articles of the proposed new Constitution have been approved in their second reading. A third reading is still required but no major changes are anticipated and it is expected that it will be totally approved before April 19.

Creole's Second Ule/Amuay Pipeline

A second 26" Ule/Amuay pipeline running parallel to the first one has been tested by Creole. Present capacity of the new line is around 180 to 200,000 barrels daily, giving a total capacity for both lines of approximately 500,000 barrels daily. This line will be put into service within the next few weeks.

Venezuelan Petroleum Production

Week ending March 23, 1953	1,713,335 barrels daily
Month of March (approximate)	1,700,000 " "

COLOMBIA GENERAL

Elections for Representatives took place as scheduled. Both the Liberal party and the Alzate wing of the Conservative party boycotted the election; however, over a million votes were polled which is an increase over former Conservative highs. Since the House is an all Conservative body, the Government may be expected to receive complete support.

Acting President Urdaneta and the President of Venezuela, Col. Perez Jimenez, held an interview at the international boundary. This meeting is of interest as indicating a trend toward closer relations between the two countries. A joint official report on matters discussed has been promised.

PERSONNEL STRENGTH

<u>Venezuela</u>	<u>Dollar</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Daily</u>	<u>Total</u>
March 31, 1953	74	296	230	600
<u>Colombia</u>				
March 31, 1953	3	18	99	120

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIESWestern Venezuela

Active in Western Venezuela were 19 exploratory rigs, 11 surface, 6 reflection seismograph and 4 gravity meter parties.

Eastern Venezuela

Active in Eastern Venezuela were 51 exploratory rigs, 6 surface, 9 seismic and 4 structure drill parties.

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- 3 -

Colombia

Active in Colombia during March were 20 exploratory rigs and 7 surface, 5 seismic, and 2 gravity parties.

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